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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00, CIAE 00, GSO 00, DODE 00, USIE 00, NSAE 00, SP 01, SS 25,

GPM 03, SC 01, NSC 04, RSC 01, L 03, H 01, SAH 03, SAL 01, P 03, INR 07,

AID 10, ID 03, EUR 08, RSR 01, /094 W

P 141.05Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8868

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8576

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS

REF: A. STATE 51809; B. SAIGON 5809A

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY John J. Zuber DATE 1/21/82

RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. _____ REASON (C) _____

E DORSE EXOTIC MARKINGS ☐

DECLASSIFIED ☒ R L A C A S E ☒

R L A C E D I N E D ☐

or FBI EXEMPTIONS

1 REFTEL REQUESTS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CANDIDATE QUALIFICATION PROCESS AND ON CANDIDATES THEMSELVES. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, VAST NUMBER OF CANDIDATES IN THE RACE PLUS FACT THAT CAMPAIGNING IS CENTERED ON PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL CONSTITUENCIES, OF WHICH THERE ARE 53, RENDERS COLLECTION OF DETAILED BIOGRAPHIC AND OTHER INFORMATION DIFFICULT AND ITS ANALYSIS COMPLEX. TO DATE WE HAVE PROVIDED BASIC BIO DATA ON ALL 1650 PERSONS WHO INITIALLY FILED FOR THE LOWER HOUSE, PLUS

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MORE RECENT AND DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE ELECTION CONTEST IN MORE THAN THIRTY CONSTITUENCIES. MORE IS ON THE WAY. WE MAY NOT HAVE THIS DETAILED INFORMATION ON EVERY CONSTITUENCY BEFORE ELECTION DAY, BUT WE WILL ON OCT.

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2. IT HAD BEEN OUR HOPE THAT MODERN DATA-PROCESSING TECHNIQUES COULD BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THIS MASS OF INFORMATION IN WASHINGTON (REF 81). AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE PROCEEDING HERE TO PREPARE A BASIC ANALYSIS OF THE CANDIDATES AS A GROUP, DEVELOPING INFORMATION ON CATEGORIES SUCH AS PLACE OF BIRTH, NUMBER OF WOMEN VERSUS MEN, AND OCCUPATIONS.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC QUERIES CONTAINED REFTEL, FOLLOWING IS OUR BEST INFORMATION TO DATE. MUCH IS MERELY OUR BEST GUESS, BASED ON THE INFORMATION WHICH WE HAVE COLLECTED (MOST IF NOT ALL OF WHICH IS ALREADY AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT).

4. PART 2 (A) OF REFTEL A: WE DO NOT KNOW, AND MAY

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NEVER KNOW PRECISELY, HOW MANY CANDIDATES HAVE EITHER
DRAWN FROM THE RACE SINCE SECOND POSTING OF NAMES
OCTOBER 1. LOWER HOUSE ELECTION LAW DOES NOT FIX
DEADLINE BEYOND WHICH WITHDRAWALS ARE NOT POSSIBLE.
ARTICLE 25, SECTION 6 IS ONLY PLACE WHERE WITH-
DRAWAL IS MENTIONED AND THIS SECTION MERELY STATES
"IN THE EVENT THE CANDIDATE WITHDRAWS HIS CANDIDACY
AFTER CAMPAIGN MATERIALS HAVE BEEN PRINTED...THE
DEPOSIT MENTIONED ABOVE (10,000\$VN) WILL NOT BE
REIMBURSED". WITHDRAWALS EVEN WITHOUT FORFEITURE ARE
THUS POSSIBLE WELL BEYOND OCTOBER 1; THERE IS NO THIRD
POSTING. WE ARE AWARE OF SOME WITHDRAWALS SINCE SECOND
POSTING: VIETNAM PRESS FRENCH LANGUAGE MORNING EDITION FOR OCT 6
ANNOUNCED THAT SINCE SECOND POSTING IN SAIGON THERE
HAVE BEEN AN ADDITIONAL 13 WITHDRAWALS, LEAVING 218
CANDIDATES TO DISPUTE 15 SEATS IN SAIGON'S THREE CON-
STITUENCIES. OTHER WITHDRAWALS, BOTH OFFICIAL AND
UNOFFICIAL, HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY TAKEN PLACE. WE ESTIMATE
THAT BY ELECTION DAY CANDIDATE-TO-SEAT RATION WILL HAVE
DIMINISHED TO NO MORE THAN NINE-TO-ONE AND PROBABLY LESS.

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5. PART 2 (B) OF REFTEL A: WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY OF THOSE 464 WHO DROPPED OUT OF THE RACE BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND POSTING WITHDREW OR WERE REJECTED; WE ARE SEEKING THIS INFORMATION AND HOPE TO HAVE IT IN HAND SOON. TABULATION WILL BE DIFFICULT, BUT THE RAW DATA IS BEING TRANSMITTED TO DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS RECEIVED. WE ALSO DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY WERE REJECTED FOR CAUSE AND HOW MANY ON TECHNICALITIES, ALTHOUGH IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT MANY, PERHAPS HALF OF THE REJECTIONS, WERE FOR FAILURE TO SUBMIT ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION. MANY WHO FAILED TO COMPLETE THEIR DOSSIERS DID SO, WE BELIEVE, MORE AS A RESULT OF A CONSCIOUS DECISION NOT TO PURSUE THE APPLICATION PROCESS THAN BECAUSE THEY FAILED TO OBTAIN SOME SPECIFIC PAPER. OF THOSE WHO WERE UNABLE TO COMPLETE THEIR APPLICATIONS, PERHAPS THE LARGEST NUMBER WERE MILITARY PERSONNEL (AND CIVIL SERVANTS) WHO FAILED TO OBTAIN LEAVE OF ABSENCE. THIS HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY NOTICEABLE IN II CORPS, WHERE SPOT TABULATION OF 11 OF 12 II CORPS CONSTITUENCIES REVEAL THAT OF 303 VIETNAMESE, 2 CHAMS, 15 SOUTH

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VIETNAMESE MONTAGNARDS, AND 8 NORTH MONTAGNARDS FILING, 40 WERE DISQUALIFIED (AND 32 WITHDREW). OF THOSE DISQUALIFIED, 18 MILITARY AND 6 CIVIL SERVANTS WERE REFUSED LEAVE OF ABSENCE, MANY AT THE DIRECTION OF II CORPS COMMANDING GENERAL VINH LOC. (ONLY 6 WERE CHALLENGED IN THESE 11 PROVINCES ON GROUNDS OF LOWER HOUSE ELECTION LAW ARTICLE 11, PARAGRAPH 9, FOUR OF WHOM WERE ELIMINATED.)

6. PART 2 (C AND D) OF REFTEL A: THIS INFORMATION BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

7. PART 3 (A) OF REFTEL A: WE HAVE A RUNNING TALLY

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OF 49 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES STILL IN RACE.
WHAT IS DEPARTMENT'S TABULATION ?

8. PART 3 (B) OF REPTTEL A: WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY
UNSUCCESSFUL UPPER HOUSE CANDIDATES ARE IN THE RACE.
THERE ARE SOME, WHERE KNOW, THEIR NAMES HAVE BEEN
REPORTED. TO CHECK NAMES OF 420 UNSUCCESSFUL UPPER

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HOUSE CANDIDATES AGAINST 1240 NAMES OF THOSE IN RACE
FOR LOWER HOUSE AS OF OCTOBER 1 IS AN UNDERTAKING OF
SUCH MAGNITUDE THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE DIVERTING OUR
LIMITED RESOURCES FROM TASKS OF GREATER URGENCY IN
RELATION TO THE ELECTION.

9. PART 3 (C) OF REPTTEL A: NUMBER OF PROVINCIAL,
MUNICIPAL COUNCILORS IN RACE BEING TABULATED AND
WILL BE REPORTED SEPTEL. WHERE KNOW, THEIR NAMES
HAVE ALREADY BEEN REPORTED.

10. WE RECOGNIZE ABOVE IS NOT FULLY RESPONSIVE TO
REPTTEL AM WE HAVE BEEN ENDEAVORING TO OBTAIN AS
DETAILED INFORMATION ON AS MANY CONSTITUENCIES AS
POSSIBLE AND TO REPORT IT TO THE DEPARTMENT AS
RAPIDLY AS WE CAN. IT IS ON THE MOST LIKELY WINNERS
THAT WE HAVE CONCENTRATED OUR COLLECTION EFFORT.
WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO THIS, AND EXPECT TO BE IN
A GOOD POSITION TO PROVIDE FAIRLY COMPREHENSIVE
INFORMATION ON THE WINNERS WITHIN A REASONABLY SHORT
TIME AFTER RESULTS ARE IN. IN THE MEANTIME, WE
WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD
ASSIST WITH SOME OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE TYPE
REQUESTED PART 4 OF REPTTEL A.

GP-3. BUNKER

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